



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 28 1982

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senator  
2400 John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

**U.S. v. AVX Original  
Litigation Document**

Dear Senator Kennedy:

In your letter of October 30, 1981, you expressed interest in the Interim Priority List of Superfund sites recently released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). You were especially concerned why the Cannons Engineering site and the New Bedford Harbor site were not included on that list. The New Bedford Harbor site was ranked number two in the initial State list submitted by Massachusetts, but, after EPA conducted a quality assurance review of all the high ranking sites, the relative ranking for New Bedford dropped. The State submission included threats to ground water used for public drinking water, but the EPA review disallowed such threats because the New Bedford Harbor contamination does not affect or threaten any ground water area for public water supplies. As you are aware, four sites from Massachusetts were included in the list with two sites, Mark Phillip Trust (Woburn) and Nyanza Chemical Waste dump in the top ten grouping.

The Interim Priority List was developed after carefully examining 282 sites nationally and applying a hazard ranking system to each site. These 282 sites include the best known and most serious sites in the country, and the Cannons Engineering site and the New Bedford Harbor site were in that group. The Agency chose to develop an Interim Priority List limited to the 100 highest ranking sites plus 15 sites designated by States as highest priority sites. The EPA, as required by section 105(8)B of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, will be developing an expanded list of 400 sites in the immediate future. Most of the sites in the original list of 282, including Cannons Engineering and New Bedford Harbor, will be prime candidates for inclusion in the National Priority List of 400 sites.

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Your letter also inquired about EPA's activities regarding Citizen Advisory Committees under CERCLA. EPA has developed a policy statement on community relations which I have enclosed. This policy commits the Agency to establishing community relations programs at each Superfund financed site. The community relations program provides opportunities for local officials and citizens to become involved in key decisions related to sites.

The Superfund community relations policy does not permit the use of Superfund monies for direct support of citizen advisory committees. If, however, such committees are established by States or local governments, the agency will cooperate and work with the committees during Superfund actions.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Anne M. Gorsuch

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Enclosure

Prepared By: WH548E: HSNYDER: jae: rm281lwsmall: 245-3051:  
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